

KENTUCKY DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

For Immediate release

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GOVERNOR BESHEAR ANNOUNCES KENTUCKY TO GET FEDERAL DISASTER ASSISTANCE

FRANKFORT, Ky. (August 14, 2009) – Kentucky Governor Steve Beshear learned earlier this evening that President Obama approved his request for federal relief for Kentuckians in Jefferson County, and has been notified that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has granted his request for disaster relief aid through the FEMA Individual Assistance (IA) Program. Governor Beshear made the request in response to the historical rains of August 4th that caused major flash flooding in Jefferson County.

"This is great news", Governor Beshear said. He continued, "I am appreciative that President Obama has acted so swiftly in answering my request to help Kentuckians recover from yet another natural disaster."

According to Brig. Gen John Heltzel, director of Kentucky Division of Emergency Management (KYEM), "At the direction of Governor Beshear and due to the hard work and fast response from local officials, we were able to request and receive the declaration in a relatively short time."

The President's action makes federal funding available to affected individuals in Jefferson County.

The assistance, to be coordinated by FEMA, can include grants for temporary housing and home repairs, low-cost loans to cover uninsured property losses, and other programs to help individuals and business owners recover from the effects of the disaster. Low-interest loans from the U.S. Small Business Administration also will be available to cover residential and business losses not fully compensated by insurance.

FEMA officials are expected in the state to set up Disaster Recovery Centers (DCR) in Jefferson County and will be available to provide information and assist individuals in registering for assistance. The locations and times will be determined and announced.

Local and federal teams continue joint damage assessments surveying and estimating the damage to government infrastructure. Under federal guidelines additional disaster relief programs, included Public Assistance, may later be requested and added to the federal disaster through the FEMA Joint Field Office and the assigned Federal Coordination Officer for this disaster.

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